



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Apostle Islands News Release

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Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Announces Special Recreation Permit Fee for the Ice Caves

Bayfield, WI - Apostle Islands National Lakeshore announces a new recreation permit fee for Meyers Beach if and when there are ice caves. There will be a daily fee of \$5.00 per person for those 16 and older and an annual pass of \$10 per person for those who plan to visit the ice caves multiple times. The \$5.00 fee will be collected onsite at the Meyers Road parking area. The annual permit, however, must be purchased at Park Headquarters in Bayfield. This is a cost recovery fee that will only be collected if there are ice caves and used to support the ice caves event. During the ice caves event, the fee for the Meyers Beach parking area will be waived.

During the ice caves special event of 2014, over the course of ten weeks, approximately 138,000 visitors funneled through the Lakeshore's Meyers Beach access to visit the caves. This unprecedented visitation received national and even international attention. The ice caves have become so popular that visitation of this magnitude may now be the norm, rather than the exception. The ice caves event in 2014 brought in nearly 10 million dollars in revenue to the local communities.

Currently the park charges a parking fee at Meyers Beach of \$3.00 per car. During the ice cave event the majority of cars parked on Highway 13 and in temporary lots. As a result the park collected only \$47,000, a fraction of what it actually cost to manage this event. The Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore contributed \$16,000 to assure that toilets were brought in and kept pumped, the National Park Service Midwest Region contributed funding and many local partners and agencies contributed in-kind services and staff as well. While the \$5.00 fee will not cover all costs associated with this event, it will make great strides in providing sufficient staff and infrastructure for this event and allow the event to be sustainable into the future.

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